

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 180359
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 HA-05
L-03 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 VO-03 CA-01 /099 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL:MR

APPROVED BY AF/P:FDHOOK

-----067540 180949Z /15

R 172246Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USNATO

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 180359

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PRAIA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS STATE 180359

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, JULY 17, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL
VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

Q: TOM, DO YOU HAVE ANY RESPONSE TO A STATEMENT BY AN
ETHIOPIAN OFFICIAL YESTERDAY IN ROME THAT THERE ARE SIXTY
MILITARY ADVISERS IN ERITREA?

A: I DO. THIS IS THE SECOND TIME IN A LITTLE MORE THAN A
MONTH THAT SUCH AN ACCUSATION HAS BEEN REPORTED FROM ETHIOPIA.
THERE IS NO BASIS TO THESE ACCUSATIONS.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 180359

WE REGRET THAT THE ETHIOPIAN LEADERSHIP APPEARS TO BE WILL-
ING TO GIVE CREDENCE TO THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO UNDERMINE
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ETHIOPIA.

Q: TOM, WHO IS THE SOURCE OF THESE RUMORS, DO YOU KNOW?

A: ACCORDING TO THE WASHINGTON POST, IT WAS ATTRIBUTED TO AN
ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN BY THE NAME OF MAJOR GURMA
NEWAY.

Q: YES, BUT I MEAN, WHO STARTED THESE RUMORS, TO BEGIN
WITH?

A: I HAVE NO IDEA. ALL I KNOW IS THERE IS NO BASIS FOR
THEM IN FACT.

Q: HOW ARE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ETHIOPIA?

A: I DON'T HAVE A READ-OUT ON THAT. I WOULD BE GLAD TO
TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q: COULD YOU ASK AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THAT WHETHER AMBASSADOR
FRED CHAPIN HAS YET PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS IN ADDIS
ABABA?

A: I DON'T BELIEVE HE HAS.

Q: TOM, COULD YOU TELL US IN VIEW OF THIS WHOLE CONFUSION ABOUT POLITICAL PRISONERS DOES THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OR THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE A DEFINITION OF WHAT A POLITICAL PRISONER IS?

A: NOT ONE THAT I AM PREPARED TO OFFER YOU, NO. I HAVE ONE OTHER THING THAT I WISH TO TAKE CARE OF.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 180359

THERE WERE PRESS REPORTS OVER THE PAST WEEKEND OF A KILLING OF 21 BLACK RHODESIAN VILLAGERS. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THE INCIDENT BEYOND THE REPORTS WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN THE PRESS. WE CONDEMN ALL ACTS OF VIOLENCE DIRECTED AGAINST INNOCENT CIVILIANS.

IN ADDITION TO THE DREADFUL HUMAN COSTS OF THESE ATROCITIES, THE CONTINUATION OF SUCH INCIDENTS VARIOUSLY ATTRIBUTED TO BOTH SIDES, CAN ONLY INCREASE THE BITTERNESS AND SUSPICIONS AMONG RHODESIANS. WE AGAIN URGE ALL PARTIES TO REFRAIN FROM ACTIONS WHICH INEVITABLY MAKE THE TASK OF FINDING A NEGOTIATED END TO THE CONFLICT MORE DIFFICULT.

Q: IN THAT CONNECTION, TOM, IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT GLAD THAT BISHOP MUZOREWA HAS COME HERE TO ASK THAT THE SANCTIONS WHICH DEAN ACHESON CONDEMNED AS IMMORAL BE LIFTED AGAINST HIS COUNTRY SO THEY CAN STRENGTHEN THE FORCES THAT ARE FIGHTING THESE BUTCHERS OR NOT?

Q: WELL, ARE YOU GLAD TO HAVE BISHOP MUZOREWA HERE?

A: LET ME TRY TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF BISHOP MUZOREWA COMING HERE. I AM NOT GOING TO BE IN A POSITION TO

ADDRESS THE PURPOSE FOR HIS VISIT.

THE DEPARTMENT DID GRANT VISAS TO BISHOP MUZOREWA AND SEVERAL OF HIS ASSOCIATES TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES. AS IS THE NORMAL PRACTICE IN THE CASE OF RESIDENTS OF RHODESIA, THE BISHOP'S APPLICATION WAS REFERRED TELEGRAPHICALLY FROM OUR CONSULATE IN JOHANNESBURG TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION. THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO DELAY

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 180359

OUR DECISION NOR HIS TRAVEL. WE RECOGNIZE BISHOP MUZOREWA AS A LEADING RHODESIAN NATIONALIST WITH WHOM WE HAVE MAINTAINED CONTINUAL CONTACT AND WHO WE HAVE ALWAYS ASSUMED WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT LEADING TO AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE.

HE HAS VISITED THE UNITED STATES ON MANY OCCASIONS TO EX-
CHANGE VIEWS WITH UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS,
WITH THE CONGRESS, AND WITH PRIVATE CITIZENS.

LET ME SAY IN THIS CONTEXT THAT -- NOT NECESSARILY IN THIS
CONTEXT, BUT IT IS ON THIS SUBJECT MATTER -- THIS ADMINI-
STRATION IS NOT SIDING WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. THERE
CANNOT BE A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT UNLESS BOTH THE LIBERATION
FORCES AND THE SALISBURY PARTIES ARE SATISFIED.

WHAT WE ARE SEEKING IS AGREEMENT BY ALL PARTIES TO FAIR
ELECTIONS UNDER NEUTRAL TRANSITION ARRANGEMENT. SHOULD
THE PATRIOTIC FRONT MAKE A DEMAND WHICH IS INCONSISTENT
WITH FAIR ELECTIONS, WE WOULD OPPOSE IT, JUST AS WE WOULD
REJECT DEMANDS BY THE SALISBURY PARTIES WHICH WOULD DENY
FAIR ELECTIONS.

BOTH SIDES HAVE AGREED TO ELECTIONS, BUT BOTH STILL SEEK
TO DOMINATE THE TRANSITION PERIOD. THE GOAL WHICH WE SEEK
IS TO SECURE AGREEMENT TO A TRANSITION PROCESS IN WHICH
NO PARTY WOULD DOMINATE. TO ACHIEVE THIS WE NEED TO MAIN-
TAIN OUR ABILITY TO WORK WITH ALL PARTIES AND TO PRESS ALL
PARTIES TOWARD AN AGREEMENT.

Q: TOM, IN THAT CONNECTION, IS BISHOP MUZOREWA GOING TO
SEE ANYBODY IN THIS DEPARTMENT WHILE HE IS HERE OFFICIALLY,
PRIVATELY?

A: I JUST DON'T KNOW. I WILL TAKE THAT QUESTION.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 180359

Q: AND, DO YOU HAVE AN APPLICATION -- MAYBE THIS HAS
BEEN ASKED BEFORE -- FOR A VISA FOR IAN SMITH?

A: WE DO NOT.

Q: HOW WOULD YOU TREAT SUCH AN APPLICATION?

A: WE WOULD WAIT UNTIL IT CAME IN.

Q: ISN'T HE A LEADING RHODESIAN NATIONALIST WHO HAS AN
IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY, TOM, OR IS IT THE FACT THAT HE HAS
THE WRONG COLOR SKIN?

A: I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION, A
HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION. WHAT WE MIGHT DO IN THE FUTURE,
I JUST DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT.

Q: TOM, MAY I ASK IF THIS REPRESENTS A CHANGE FROM THE
PREVIOUS POLICY SINCE IT WAS ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO THE
VISAS WERE REFUSED TO CHIEF CHEROU ON THE GROUNDS THAT

HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT OR ACTUALLY HE WAS ONLY IN PARLIAMENT?

A: I WILL TAKE THAT QUESTION.

Q: CAN YOU TELL US WHAT PASSPORT THE BISHOP CARRIES?

A: I DON'T KNOW. I DID HEAR A PRESS REPORT THAT HE WAS TRAVELING ON A SOUTH AFRICAN PASSPORT, BUT I JUST DON'T KNOW?

Q: WHAT IS OUR POSITION ON THE EMBARGO, THE SENATE ATTEMPT TO LIFT THE EMBARGO AGAINST RHODESIA WHICH FAILED BY A 48-42 VOTE? DOES THE ADMINISTRATION HAVE A POSITION ON UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 180359

THAT?

A: LET ME SEE WHETHER I CAN GET YOU A MORE EXTENSIVE POSITION, BUT I THINK THE ADMINISTRATION OPPOSED THAT EFFORT.

Q: WAIT A MINUTE. OPPOSES THE EFFORT TO REPEAL. THAT WOULD SURELY BE THE CASE; WOULDN'T IT?

A: YES. OPPOSED THE EFFORT TO REPEAL, YES. BUT LET ME SEE IF I CAN GET YOU A MORE EXTENSIVE ANSWER.

Q: TOM, ARE YOU CERTAIN THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO APPLICATION FOR A VIAS FROM MR. SMITH, CHIEF CHEROU, AND THE REVEREND NDABANINGI SITHOLE?

A: AS OF 8:00 O'CLOCK THIS MORNING WE WERE NOT AWARE OF ANY.

Q: ARE YOU AWARE THAT THE CHURCH -- I BELIEVE IT IS IN ILLINOIS -- WHICH SPONSORED THE MISSION WHERE THE KILLINGS

TOOK PLACE HAS INVITED IAN SMITH TO THE UNITED STATES?

A: I AM AWARE THAT A CHURCH IN CHICAGO HAS INVITED MR. SMITH TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES. I AM NOT AWARE THAT THAT CHURCH WAS CONNECTED WITH THE MISSIONARIES IN RHODESIA. BUT I AM AWARE THAT AN INVITATION HAS BEEN ISSUED, YES.

Q: TOM, ON YOUR STATEMENT CONDEMNING THAT MASSACRE,

SINCE AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAD INDICATED THAT HE THOUGHT THESE MASSACRES WERE BEING PERPETRATED BY THE "SMITH CAMP," DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY VIEW ABOUT WHO PERPETRATED THIS MASSACRE AND OTHER SIMILAR MASSACRES THAT THE SALISBURY GOVERNMENT HAS ATTRIBUTED TO THE SO-CALLED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 180359

PATRIOTIC FRONT?

Q: CAN I ATTACH A CORROLARY TO THAT? ONE OF THE SURVIVORS

--

A: LET ME TRY TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION FIRST, AND THEN IF
YOU WANT TO FOLLOW ON --

Q: THAT HAD TO DO WITH REED'S QUESTION.

A: WELL, CAN YOU FOLLOW IT AFTER I ANSWER REED'S QUESTION?

AS IN THE CASE OF SEVERAL OTHER INCIDENTS REPORTED IN
RECENT WEEKS RESULTING IN CIVILIAN DEATHS AND VARIOUSLY
ATTRIBUTED TO BOTH SIDES IN THE RHODESIAN CONFLICT, WE
ARE NOT IN A POSITION DEFINITELY TO ESTABLISH SPECIFIC
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT INCIDENT. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO
SUPPORT A CLAIM THAT THE RHODESIAN AUTHORITIES WERE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT INCIDENT. IN THE ABSENCE OF CLEAR
EVIDENCE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR US TO
SPECULATE ON WHO MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE.

THE POINT IS THAT THE PATTERN OF INCREASING CIVILIAN
DEATHS PRESENTS A TRAGEDY FOR THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF
THOSE WHO WERE KILLED AND FOR RHODESIA AS A WHOLE.

AS WE HAVE SAID, ANY AND ALL ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST
INNOCENT CIVILIANS ARE TO BE CONDEMNED REGARDLESS OF WHO
MIGHT BE RESPONSIBLE.

Q: ARE YOU ANSWERING ANDY YOUNG NOW?

A: YES. AMBASSADOR YOUNG SHARES THESE VIEWS.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 180359

Q: EXCUSE ME. I DON'T UNDERSTAND. AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID
THAT HE THOUGHT THAT IT CAME FROM THE SMITH CAMP. ARE YOU
SAYING NOW THAT HE IS RETRACTING THAT STATEMENT?

A: I AM NOT SAYING WHAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID. I AM
OFFERING YOU THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
STATE ON THE MATTER WHICH YOU REFERRED TO AND WHICH
AMBASSADOR YOUNG WAS ADDRESSING. I'M SAYING THAT WE DO
NOT HAVE CLEAR EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THAT THE MASSACRE WAS
PERPETRATED BY THE RHODESIAN AUTHORITIES.

Q: ARE YOU SEEKING SUCH EFFORTS?

A: I AM UNAWARE OF ANY EFFORT ALONG THESE LINES.

Q: WHAT IS GRAHAM'S COROLLARY?

Q: WELL, I THINK YOU'VE PROBABLY ANSWERED IT THAT ONE OF THE INITIAL REPORTS INDICATED THAT ONE OF THE SURVIVORS CLAIMED IT WAS THE FORCES OF BISHOP MUZOREWA REACTING AGAINST THE DEFECTION OF SOME MUZOREWA PEOPLE OF THE CAMP OF REVEREND NDABANINGE SITHOLE; AND WHAT I WAS GOING TO ASK IS WHETHER OR NOT THERE WAS ANY EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THAT POINT.

A: WELL, AS I SAY, WE DON'T HAVE DEFINITIVE EVIDENCE AS TO WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS. CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 sep 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, PRESS SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE180359
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/P:BARUSSELL:MR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780294-0402
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197807106/baaaezgi.tel
Line Count: 342
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8170566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1857285
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, JULY 17, 1978
TAGS: SOPN, XA, US
To: KINSHASA LUBUMBASHI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8170566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014